the aforesaid portion of the road; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. National Highway No. 17 is maintained in traffic worthy condition within the availability of funds.

(b) Presently there is no proposal for four lancing or straightening of curves in this reach. However, to improve the condition of the road, rehabilitation of existing cement concrete Pavement in 17 Km. length was sanctioned in 1990-91 for Rs. 220.87 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 20.00 lakhs were allocated during 1991-92 for the above mentioned works.

Goods for Export to Russia

*640. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufactured goods worth over Rs. 400 crores meant for exports to Russia are piling up following the recent changes introduced in banking norms and currency regime;

(b) whether the manufacturers have represented to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to clear off the export goods; and

(d) the time by which decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, India has been making efforts to enter into trade relationships with all the newly independent Republics.

The Trade Protocol for 1992 between India and the Russian Federation was signed on the 22nd of February, 1992. A banking arrangement has been entered into between the Reserve Bank of India and the Russian Bank of Foreign Trade. However, the Russian Bank has as yet not started issue of Letters of Credit for imports of goods from India. Russian exports to India have also not begun to take place as yet. In the absence of Rupee generation arising out of Russian exports to India, Indian exports to Russia under the new Protocol are yet to materialise in a substantial measure. Some representations have been received from India exporters in this regard. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Russian Government who have been urged to begin supplies of commodities and raw materials as per the Trade Protocol to India so that Indian exports can also take place.

Caustic Soda Flakes

*641. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the caustic soda flakes/solids/lye are being imported at present;

(b) if so, the quantity improved during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(c) whether these items are exported also;

(d) if so, the quantity of each item exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide additional incentives for export to caustic soda; and

(f) if, so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). In terms of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, import and export of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye is freely allowed.

A detail indicating the imports and exports of the item, both quantily and value-wise, during the period from 1986-87 to 1988-89 for which data is available, is given in enclosed statement.

(e) and (f). With a view to providing incentives to the exporters 40% of the export proceeds are converted into Indian rupees at the official rate and the balance 60% at the market rate.

Qty. in Tonnes
Value in Rs. Lakhs.

IMPORTS

Sl. No.	Description of items.	1986-87		1987-88		1988-89	
		Qty.	Value.	Qty.	Value.	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Sodium hydroxide (Caustic Soda)						
1.	Flakes	10,780	131.70	12,904	201.87	2,677	178.26
2.	Other than Flakes	26,316	237.45	34,372	358.11	141	12.62
3.	Sodium hydroxide in aqucous solution	31,875	235.22	–	–	37,948	1042.44

Qty. in Tonnes
Value in Rs. Lakhs.

EXPORTS

Sl. No.	Description of items.	1986-87		1987-88		1988-89	
		Qty.	Value.	Qty.	Value.	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Sodium hydroxide (Caustic Soda)						
1.	Flakes	10	0.76	209	9.39	7,643	470.81
2.	Other than Flakes	40	1.11	247	10.10	1,529	40.64
3.	Sodium hydroxide in aqueous solution	1	0.03	68	2.50	5,150	188.95